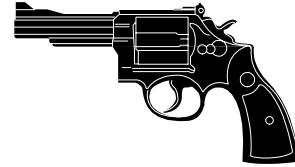


Firearm Safety



True Story

A 14-year-old girl was in the kitchen of her home with her brother. He unintentionally shot her in the neck with a BB rifle. The girl was taken to the hospital, where she was treated and released. Five days later, she was found unresponsive and later pronounced dead. The girl died of gastric perforation (a hole in the stomach) as a complication of a BB pellet wound of the neck – the BB had worked its way through the girl's body and punctured her stomach.

-From the Kansas City Star

The Facts

- In 2002, 60 children ages 14 and younger died from unintentional gun-related injuries. Children ages 10 to 14 accounted for 57 percent of these deaths.
- In 2003, 231 children ages 14 and younger were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional gun-related injuries; more than 50 percent of these injuries were severe enough to require hospitalization.
- The unintentional gun injury death rate among children ages 14 and younger in the United States is *nine times higher* than in 25 other industrialized countries *combined*.
- An estimated 3.3 million children in the United States live in households where guns are kept loaded and unlocked at least part of the time.
- In 2003, nearly 8,300 children ages 14 and younger were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional non-powder gun-related injuries (e.g. BB guns, pellet guns, etc.).

What You Can Do

- Children should not have access to guns in the home.
- Gun owners should always store guns – including pellet and BB guns – unloaded and locked up, out of the reach of children.
- Parents should talk to children about the dangers of guns, teach children never to touch or play with guns, and teach them to tell an adult if they find a gun.
- Parents should check with neighbors, friends or relatives – or adults in any other homes where children may visit – to ensure they follow safe storage practices if guns are in their homes.

Source: Safe Kids USA



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

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